



Providing Inspection Services for

Department of Education
Department for Employment and Learning
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure



Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Lisnagarvey High School
Lisburn**

December 2015

A FOURTH FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF LISNAGARVEY HIGH SCHOOL, LISBURN, CO ANTRIM, BT28 1HN (421-0051).

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out the third follow-up inspection¹ of Lisnagarvey High School in October 2013 when the quality of education was evaluated as satisfactory².

The main areas for improvement were the need:

- to raise further the standards achieved in public examinations;
- for management at all levels to ensure that the processes of self-evaluation, target-setting and the use of intervention strategies in lessons lead to sustained improvement in attendance and the quality of the pupils' work across the whole range of abilities; and
- for the employing authority, governors and the staff to plan for, and manage, issues related to the sustainability of the sixth-form provision in order to address more effectively the current and future needs of the pupils and the staff, in light of the increased numbers in key stage (KS) 4.

Two interim follow-up visits were completed in September 2014 and February 2015. The ETI carried out a fourth follow-up inspection in December 2015.

In the interval since the third follow-up inspection, the following changes and actions which affect the work of the school have taken place:

- a temporary head of mathematics has been recently appointed;
- the number of pupils in year 12 has increased from 80 to 88;
- the attendance rate of the pupils has improved from 88.5% to 91%; and
- the proportion of pupils entitled to free schools meals has increased from 30% to 39%.

Key findings

- The effective work of the strategic leaders of the school in bringing about improvement through: rigorous pupil tracking and the monitoring and evaluation of the quality of learning and teaching; effective additional support for pupils within and beyond the school day to develop their confidence and affirm their progress; and the greater engagement with parents to ensure they are well informed about their child's progress and to provide them with strategies to support learning at home.

¹ The third follow-up inspection report can be accessed at: <http://www.etini.gov.uk/index/inspection-reports/inspection-reports-post-primary/inspection-reports-post-primary-2014/follow-up-inspection-lisnagarvey-high-school-lisburn-4.pdf>

² From September 2015, the overall effectiveness of a school previously evaluated as satisfactory will now be reported as having important areas for improvement.

- The school's mission statement "success for all" is evidenced by the positive relationships between staff and pupils. Throughout the school, a culture of high expectations and achievement and the fostering of a "can do" attitude have resulted in significant improvements in the pupils' disposition to learning and the standards they achieve.
- Almost all of the lessons observed during the follow-up inspection were effective at promoting learning, with a majority of them evaluated as very good or outstanding.
- The standards attained by pupils at the end of KS 4 have improved significantly. The percentage of year 12 pupils attaining five or more GCSE qualifications or equivalent at grades A* to C has increased by almost 25 percentage points to 87%. The percentage of pupils attaining five or more GCSE qualifications or equivalent, including English and mathematics, has increased by over 30 percentage points to 57%, which is now above the Northern Ireland (NI) average for similar non-selective schools.
- The standards attained by the pupils in English and mathematics have improved significantly. In English, the percentage attaining a GCSE at grades A* to C has increased from 40% at the time of the last follow-up inspection to 75%, which is almost 15 percentage points above the NI average. Similarly in mathematics, the percentage attaining a GCSE at grades A* to C has increased from 39% to 64% which is almost 15 percentage points above the NI average.
- It is noteworthy that the percentage of year 12 pupils entitled to free school meals attaining five or more GCSE qualifications or equivalent at grades A* to C, including English and mathematics, has increased by over 30 percentage points to 50%, which is almost in line with the standards attained by their peers and well above the corresponding NI average.
- The percentage of year 14 pupils attaining at grades A* to C in three or more GCE A-levels or equivalent has remained consistently above the NI average for similar non-selective schools. In addition, the staying on rate from year 13 to year 14 has increased by almost 20 percentage points to 78%, which is in line with the NI average.
- In taking the school improvement work forward, the school has identified and is addressing appropriately the provision in mathematics to ensure the high standards achieved over the past two years are sustained.

Overall effectiveness

The school demonstrates the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will monitor how the school sustains improvement.

It will be important that the employing authority, school governors and the staff plan for, and manage, issues related to the sustainability of the school's provision and budget for the school's sixth form provision in order to address the current and future needs of the pupils and the staff.

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